

response. This restriction does not limit the Government's right to use or disclose data obtained without restriction from any source including the respondent.

#### Submission

Each submittal should consist of six copies, one original and five photocopies. The original copy of the Expression of Interest shall contain all documents that bear original signatures. DOE is under no obligation to pay for any costs associated with the preparation or submission of Expressions of Interest in response to this notice. DOE reserves the right to respond or not respond to any portion, all, or none of the Expressions of Interest submitted in response to this notice.

Issued in Washington, D.C., on November 21, 1995.

Terry R. Lash,

*Director, Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology.*

[FR Doc. 95-30086 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6450-01-P

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP96-32-000]

#### Viking Gas Transmission Company; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed VGT Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues

December 5, 1995.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction and operation of the facilities proposed in the VGT Expansion Project.<sup>1</sup> This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether an environmental impact statement is necessary and whether to approve the project.

#### Summary of the Proposed Project

Viking Gas Transmission Company (VGT) wants to expand the capacity of its facilities in Kittson and Norman Counties, Minnesota, to transport an additional 19,420 decatherms per day of natural gas. VGT requests authorization to construct and operate two 24-inch-

diameter pipeline loops, totalling 13.51 miles in length, and appurtenant facilities.

The general location of the project facilities is shown in appendix 1.<sup>2</sup>

#### Land Requirements for Construction

Construction of the proposed facilities would require about 179.3 acres of land, including 81.9 acres of temporary right-of-way. Following construction, all of the land would be restored and allowed to revert to its former use. No new permanent right-of-way is required for the project.

#### The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents of this proposed action and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

The EA will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the proposed project under these general headings:

- geology and soils
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands
- vegetation and wildlife
- endangered and threatened species
- public safety
- land use
- cultural resources
- air quality and noise
- hazardous waste

We will also evaluate possible alternatives to the proposed project or portions of the project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Our independent analysis of the issues will be in the EA. Depending on

the comments received during the scoping process, the EA may be published and mailed to Federal, state, and local agencies, public interest groups, interested individuals, affected landowners, newspapers, libraries, and the Commission's official service list for this proceeding. A comment period will be allotted for review if the EA is published. We will consider all comments on the EA before we recommend that the Commission approve or not approve the project.

#### Currently Identified Environmental Issues

We have already identified issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the proposed facilities and the environmental information provided by VGT.

- A total of 155 acres of agricultural land, virtually all of it is prime farmland soils, would be affected.

- One perennial stream (the North Branch, Two Rivers) would be crossed.

Keep in mind that this is a preliminary list. The list of issues may be added to, subtracted from, or changed based on your comments and our analysis.

#### Public Participation

You can make a difference by sending a letter addressing your specific comments or concerns about the project. You should focus on the potential environmental effects of the proposal, alternatives to the proposal, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impact. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. Please follow the instructions below to ensure that your comments are received and properly recorded:

- Address your letter to: Lois Cashell, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426;

- Reference Docket No. CP96-32-000;

- Send a *copy* of your letter to: Mr. Jeff Shenot, EA Project Manager, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First St., N.E., Room 7L-05, Washington, D.C. 20426; and

- Mail your comments so that they will be received in Washington, D.C. on or before January 10, 1996.

If you wish to receive a copy of the EA, you should request one from Mr. Shenot at the above address.

#### Becoming an Intervenor

In addition to involvement in the EA scoping process, you may want to become an official party to the proceeding or become an "intervenor".

<sup>1</sup> Viking Gas Transmission Company's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

<sup>2</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies are available from the Commission's Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 208-1371. Copies of the appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail.

Among other things, intervenors have the right to receive copies of case-related Commission documents and filings by other intervenors. Likewise, each intervenor must provide copies of its filings to all other parties. If you want to become an intervenor you must file a motion to intervene according to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.214) (see appendix 2).

The date for filing of timely motions to intervene in this proceeding has passed. Therefore, parties now seeking to file late interventions must show good cause, as required by Section 385.214(b)(3), why this time limitation should be waived. Environmental issues have been viewed as good cause for late intervention. You do not need intervenor status to have your scoping comments considered.

Additional information about the proposed project is available from Mr. Jeff Shenot, EA Project Manager, at (202) 219-0295.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-30061 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**[Docket No. CP96-91-000]**

**Stingray Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization**

December 5, 1995.

Take notice that on December 1, 1995, Stingray Pipeline Company (Stingray), 701 East 22nd Street, Lombard, Illinois 60148, filed in Docket No. CP96-91-000 a request pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.208(b) of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205, 157.208) for authorization to own and operate, by means of construction and acquisition, various facilities located offshore Louisiana, in order to give Stingray access to additional gas supplies and to expand operational flexibility, under Stingray's blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP91-1505-000 pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act, all as more fully set forth in the request that is on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Stingray proposes to: (1) Acquire, own and operate dual 8-inch meter facilities and approximately 0.13 mile of 20-inch lateral that will be constructed by Midcon Exploration Company and Flex Trend Development Company (the Producers) on the construction platform being constructed by the Producers in Garden Banks Block 72, offshore Louisiana; (2) construct, own and operate 15.49 miles of 20-inch lateral

from the Garden Banks 72 production platform to Stingray's existing facilities in Vermilion Block 362, offshore Louisiana; (3) construct, own and operate a 20-inch subsea tap valve on the proposed 20-inch lateral in Vermilion Block 408 for future interconnects; and (4) construct, own and operate a 12-inch subsea tap valve on the proposed 20-inch lateral in Vermilion Block 385 for a future interconnect.

It is stated that construction of the 20-inch lateral and related facilities will allow Stingray to receive and transport up to 75 Mmcf of natural gas per day produced by the Producers at Garden Banks 72. It is asserted that the taps proposed in (3) and (4) above would allow Stingray additional opportunities for operational flexibility in acquiring volumes of gas that may become available in the future from other production sources in the Vermilion and Garden Banks areas. It is estimated that the cost of acquisition and construction would be approximately \$8.927 million.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after issuance of the instant notice by the Commission, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the time allowed therefor, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-30013 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**[Docket No. ES96-10-001]**

**UtiliCorp United Inc.; Notice of Amended Application**

December 5, 1995.

Take notice that on December 1, 1995, UtiliCorp United Inc. (UtiliCorp) filed an amendment to its November 3, 1995, application in Docket No. ES96-10-000, under § 204 of the Federal Power Act. In the original filing, UtiliCorp seeks authorization to issue and sell up to and including \$7.3 million of Pollution Control Bonds (PCBs) which would be

secured by a letter of credit. In its amendment, UtiliCorp indicates that the original application inadvertently failed to specify a request for an authorization that would cover the full amount of the letter credit used to support the payment of principal and interest of the PCBs issuance, when due. In the amendment, UtiliCorp requests an authorization to enter into a letter of credit in the amount of \$7,502,300 to be issued in support of the payment of the principal of and interest on the PCBs.

Any person desiring to be heard of to protest said filing should file a motion to intervene or protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20426, in accordance with Rules 211 and 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211 and 385.214). All such motions or protests should be filed on or before December 13, 1995. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceeding. Any person wishing to become a party must file a motion to intervene. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection.

Lois D. Cashell,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 95-30012 Filed 12-8-95; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6717-01-M

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**[FRL-5341-3]**

**CERCLA Enforcement Against Lenders and Government Entities That Acquire Property Involuntarily**

**AGENCY:** Environmental Protection Agency.

**ACTION:** Announcement and publication of policy.

**SUMMARY:** This policy memorandum sets forth the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the Department of Justice's ("DOJ") policy regarding the government's enforcement of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act ("CERCLA") against lenders and against government entities that acquire property involuntarily. As an enforcement policy, EPA and DOJ intend to apply as guidance the provisions of the "Lender Liability Rule" promulgated in 1992, thereby endorsing the interpretations and rationales announced in the Rule. See